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*Transits of the Small Dark Red Spots.*

	1ST SPOT.	2D SPOT.	3D SPOT.
	<i>h. m.</i>	<i>h. m.</i>	<i>h. m.</i>
1890, April 26.....	15 53.2	16 34.2	.....
“ July 8.....	.....	11 20.3	.....
“ “ 13.....	.....	.....	11 55.5
“ “ 15.....	.....	12 13.0	13 37.3
“ “ 30.....	.....	9 29.8	10 48.6
“ Aug. 1.....	10 17.8	11 03.2	.....

Following are transits of two more of these small spots :

$\begin{array}{rcc} & d. & h. & m. \\ 1890, \text{ July, } & 14 & 12 & 30.4 ; \\ & \text{Aug., } & 2 & 9 & 42.9. \end{array}$

The above are in Mt. Hamilton mean time. Each of these small spots is now situated on a thin reddish spur that juts out from the north edge of the equatorial belt, and runs eastward parallel to it for some 25,000 or 30,000 miles. They are gaining on the Red Spot  $10^{\circ}.02$  at each rotation of the planet.

In appearance the small black spots were not unlike the remarkable black spots that broke out just north of the north equatorial belt in 1880. (*See Publ. A. S. P. No. 5, page 100, and page 111, spot f.*)

E. E. B.

MT. HAMILTON, July, 1890.

#### WHITE SPOTS ON THE TERMINATOR OF *MARS*.

The interesting phenomenon of bright spots projecting beyond the terminator of *Mars*, and presenting much the same appearance as the summits of lunar mountains and craters when first visible outside the terminator of the moon, was well seen with the thirty-six-inch refractor on the nights of July 5th and 6th. The attention of the astronomers was directed to the aspect of *Mars* on July 5th at 10<sup>h</sup> P. s. t., by a visitor, who happened to be looking in the telescope at that time, on one of the public nights of the observatory. A sketch made by J. E. K. at this time shows a narrow elliptical white spot, from 1".5 to 2".0 long, projecting downward (northward) at a small angle with the line of the terminator. The seeing was 5, or the best which is known at the observatory. At 10<sup>h</sup> 30<sup>m</sup> the spot was within the disc, but still visible as an oval white patch on a darker background. This aspect is also shown in a sketch.

On July 6th the same appearance was more carefully observed by E. S. H., J. M. S. and J. E. K. A projecting spot was seen by E. S. H. at 8<sup>h</sup> 3<sup>m</sup> P. s. t. At 8<sup>h</sup> 45<sup>m</sup> it curved upward and nearly met another smaller projecting spot some 2" farther toward the south. J. M. S. considered that there was an actual connection, although it was very faint.

The lower spot, although it changed considerably in shape, remained visible for more than an hour, and was observed to be always situated on the end of a long bright strip of the surface of the planet which lies north of *Deuteronilus*. The simplest interpretation of the phenomenon is therefore that this strip is (or was at the time of observation) elevated above the general surface. At about 10<sup>h</sup> 25<sup>m</sup> of July 6 the aspect was much the same as that of the spot seen on the preceding night and was no doubt produced by the same part of the planet.

Sketches were made at different times by all the observers. The principal "canals" of SCHIAPARELLI was seen as broad diffuse bands, usually very faint, but one, the *Gihon*, was remarkably strong.

It is a fact of some interest that both satellites of *Mars* were seen on one of the public nights (June 14) by a visitor, a lady, who was unaware of their existence, and that their positions were correctly indicated by her in a sketch. The planet was in the centre of the field, and not hidden behind a bar. Many other visitors saw the satellites when their positions had been pointed out.

E. S. H., J. M. S., J. E. K.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS OF *VENUS* AND OF *MERCURY* IN DAYLIGHT.

On July 21, a negative was made of *Venus* in full daylight with the great telescope, at 3<sup>h</sup> 30<sup>m</sup> P. M., with the planet one hour west of the meridian. The plate was Seed 26, the aperture eight inches,  $\frac{a}{f} = \frac{1}{71}$ , and the exposure 0<sup>s</sup>.13. There is a very strong contrast between the limb and the sky, which would have been even stronger if we had used a slower plate, a smaller aperture, and a quicker time. On August 11, similar negatives were made of *Mercury* with apertures of eight and six inches (the latter the best).

E. S. H. AND W. W. C.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS OF *ALPHA LYRÆ* IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.

A series of pictures of *Alpha Lyræ* was taken on August 18 with the great telescope about 5 P. M. with apertures of 33, 15, 8, 4 inches,